

MDG-007-CIP

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 345372053 US**PATENT APPLICATION DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated next to my name in PART A on page 2 hereof.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

FLEXIBLE ROD SUPPORT MEMBER FOR PACKS, BAGS AND OTHER ARTICLES

the specification of which:

X is attached hereto;
 — was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was
 amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to herein.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information to the Patent and Trademark Office known to me to be material to the patentability of this application, as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 United States Code, Sec. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed in PART B on page 2 hereof and have also identified in PART B on page 2 hereof any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119(e) or 120 of any United States application(s), or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America, listed in PART C of page 2 hereof and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information to the Patent and Trademark Office known to me to be material to patentability of this application, as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following as my attorneys or agents with full power of substitution to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Michael A. Hierl | Reg. No. 29,807 | Arne M. Olson | Reg. No. 30,203 |
| Dolores T. Kenney | Reg. No. 31,269 | Talivaldis Cepuritis | Reg. No. 20,818 |
| Daniel J. Deneufbourg | Reg. No. 33,675 | Seymour Rothstein | Reg. No. 19,369 |
| Joseph M. Kuo | Reg. No. 38,943 | David A. Gottardo | Reg. No. 46,736 |
| Martin J. Corn | Reg. No. 35,847 | Robert J. Ross | Reg. No. 45,058 |

whose mailing address for this application is: **OLSON & HIERL, LTD.**
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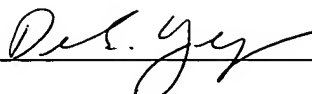
See Page 2 attached, signed, and made a part hereof.

PATENT APPLICATION DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

PART A: Inventor Information and Signature

Full name of SOLE or FIRST inventor Dean E. Meyer
 Citizenship U.S. Residence 16 Olympia Court
Oakbrook, Illinois 60523

Mailing Address (If different) _____

Inventor's signature:  Date: 1-27-04

Full name of SECOND joint inventor, if any _____
 Citizenship _____ Residence _____

Mailing Address (If different) _____

Second Inventor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Full name of THIRD joint inventor, if any _____
 Citizenship _____ Residence _____

Mailing Address (If different) _____

Third Inventor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Full name of FOURTH joint inventor, if any _____
 Citizenship _____ Residence _____

Mailing Address (If different) _____

Fourth Inventor's signature: _____ Date: _____

PART B: Prior Foreign Application(s)

| <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Day/Month/Year Filed</u> | <u>Priority Claimed</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PART C: Claim for Benefit of Filing Date of Earlier U.S. Application(s) or PCT International Application(s) Designating the United States of America

| <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> | <u>Status:</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| U.S. 10/610,058 | June 30, 2003 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patented <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned |
| U.S. 10/706,259 | November 12, 2003 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patented <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned |

See Page 1 attached and made a part hereof.